

Self-Assessment Statements

How much do each of the following statements describe the quality and nature of family involvement in your collaborative or initiative?

	Very Much	Some	Not At All
A. Supporting Involvement			
1. Family and community participants are reimbursed for their time, expenses, and transportation (which is organized and/or provided by the group).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. We provide or ensure the availability of high-quality, flexible child care that meets the needs of family members, allowing them to participate in meetings and other events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. We create opportunities for families to engage in peer networking and support with each other and with staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Training and Education			
1. We offer training sessions for professionals and families, which are co-facilitated by participants and staff, on how to work collaboratively with each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Communicating Clearly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. We ask for regular feed-back from parents about how welcome and comfortable they feel.			
2. We make sure that the information we share with families is free of jargon and can be easily understood by all of the participants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Information is provided in all of the languages spoken in our group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. We provide relevant information to family participants in a timely manner so that they can prepare for meetings and other events.	Very Much <input type="checkbox"/>	Some <input type="checkbox"/>	Not At All <input type="checkbox"/>
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D. Support from the Top

1. The quality of family involvement (e.g., intensity and meaningfulness of involvement) is one of our measures of program success for evaluation and monitoring.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Our initiative devotes resources, such as money and staff time, to family involvement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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E. Achieving, Appropriate Representation and Recruiting Diversity

1. We recruit and engage families who have not typically been involved in decision-making or other kinds of family involvement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. The program participants who are involved in our effort are representative of the larger community in terms of race, culture, language, income, and education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. We have strategies for promoting youth involvement as well as parent involvement, trying to ensure that youth have a stake and a voice in area important to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Our initiative involves a variety of community members, including representatives from the business, civic, education, and religious sectors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	Very Much	Some	Not At All
5. We are successfully involving males in our initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Flexibility and Responsiveness

1. Our meeting and other opportunities for involvement are offered at times and locations that are convenient for family members.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Our initiative responds to the concerns of family members with action.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. We use needs assessments that have been developed in collaboration with families to ensure that our efforts are addressing the issues that are important to the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. We have flexible involvement policy that allows family members to determine the level and intensity of their involvement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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G. Going Beyond Meetings

1. Parents participate in the ongoing evaluation and assessment of our initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. We provide or make available training on leadership and governance for parents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. In our initiative, parents participate as paid staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. We encourage and support parents' involvement in community advocacy and leadership efforts beyond our initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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H. Setting Goals

	Very Much	Some	Not At All
1. Families and staff set specific and attainable goals for involving families in the policy-making and decision-making aspects of our initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Family members who are involved have clear roles and expectations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Going Beyond Token Involvement

1. Family members on decision-making bodies have full voting rights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. We have at least as many family members as professionals on decision-making bodies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Participants select their own representatives for decision-making bodies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Families have an equal voice in the most important decisions we make, including hiring staff, setting policy directions, and deciding how to spend money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

J. Changing Organizational Attitudes

1. Family members trust the relationship they have with the professionals in our organization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. In our organization, power is shared equally between parents and professionals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The professionals in our organization respect the opinions of family members and work with families to make these recommendations a reality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

After completing the self-assessment, consider some of the following questions as you move onto the next stage of prioritizing which areas you will focus on as you proceed with your plans to improve family involvement in your effort:

Which areas are you struggling in?

What can you do to make improvements in these areas?

What do the families in your community say? Have you utilized their suggestions?

What questions do you need to answer from the parents you involve?

What are your strongest areas?

What has allowed you to improve in these areas?

How can you use these strengths to improve the rest of your effort?

What are your top priorities for action?

What are the next immediate steps you can take?

What is your long-term plan for involving families?

Another resource that may be useful in your ongoing work involving families is **Guidelines for Family Support Practice**, the culmination of years of research on the principles and practices behind supportive work with families. Family involvement and community roles are among the many topics addressed in this resource.

Guidelines for Family Support Practice can be ordered from the Family Resource Coalition, 20 N. Wasker Dr., Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60606, Ph: 312-338-0900, Fax 312-338-1522. E-MAIL: frca@frca.org

Please help us improve our work by giving us feedback on this self assessment!

As part of our ongoing learning process, we are very interested in your impressions of this self-assessment and the ways in which it can be used. If you would like additional input on using the self-assessment, or if you have used the self-assessment, and have comments, please contact David Diehl of the Family Resource Coalition of America:

Ph: 312-338-0900, Fax 312-338-1522.